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In step S63, reply of the data transmission request command in step S61 is waited. As step S41 in FIG. 22, a proper timeout may be set to wait for return of the data transmission command. If the data transmission command of the required data is returned in a set period of time, step S65 is conducted. If not, step S64 is performed. In step S65, the received data is passed to controller 4 and this flow reaches the end.

In step S64, data is obtained from any external unit by using external communication means contained in data acquiring unit 1. The external communication means is a modem or Ethernet cable, for example. If TCP/IP protocol can be used on the modem or Ethernet cable, data can be acquired from FTP (File Transfer Protocol) server by using FTP. If data can be obtained, the received data is passed to controller 4 to complete the flow.

Although the present invention has been described and illustrated in detail, it is clearly understood that the same is by way of illustration and example only and is not to be taken by way of limitation, the spirit and scope of the present invention being limited only by the terms of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A display device for displaying data comprising:

data acquiring means for acquiring data;

display means for displaying the data acquired by said data acquiring means;

operation means for operating said display device;

control means for controlling said display device;

infrared communication means for communicating with another display device;

side surface coupling means for structurally coupling a side surface of said display device to a side surface of said another display device with which communication is made by said infrared communication means; and,

wherein said side surface coupling means comprises a hinge structure located on one edge of said side surfaces and said infrared communication means are located in said side surfaces adjacent the hinge structure;

wherein said infrared communication means comprises a pair of infrared communication modules respectively located in mutually opposing recesses of said side

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surfaces and having optical axes substantially aligned in a first positional arrangement of said display devices and substantially misaligned in a second positional arrangement of said display devices.

2. The display device according to claim 1 wherein said first positional arrangement comprises an arrangement wherein said display devices are coupled at substantially 180° so as to provide a flat planar arrangement of said display devices and wherein said second positional arrangement comprises one or more angulated arrangements wherein said display devices are coupled at substantially 90° or at a position substantially less than 180°, and including infrared reflection means for providing coupling between the infrared communications modules during said second positional arrangement.

3. The display device according to claim 2 wherein said reflection means comprises a reflection plate extending between the other edge of said side surfaces.

4. The display device according to claim 1 wherein said recesses include a pair of substantially flat inner side walls intersecting at an acute angle, wherein said modules are located on one side wall of said pair of side walls and said first positional arrangement comprises an angulated arrangement wherein said display devices are coupled at substantially 90° or at a position substantially less than 180°, said one side walls of said pair of inner side walls facing each other thereat and wherein said second positional arrangement comprises an arrangement wherein said display devices are coupled at substantially 180° so as to provide a flat planar arrangement and including reflection means for providing coupling between said modules during said second positional arrangement.

5. The display device according to claim 4 wherein said reflection means comprises reflection means located on the other side walls of said pair of side walls.

6. The display device according to claim 5 wherein said reflection means comprise reflection plates on said other side walls.

7. The display device according to claim 4 wherein said acute angle of said pair of inner walls of said recesses is about 45°.

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